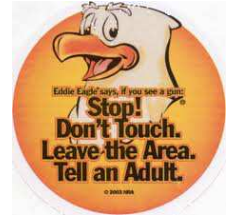


City of Bloomington
Commission on the Status
of Children and Youth



Guns in your home.....

Around the world gun ownership is a hotly battled debate for adults. Laws in different countries, states and provinces do permit ownership of guns with varying restrictions. If you do have a gun in your home it is legal to do so if your parents follow the laws where you live.

You may have seen a gun in your home. Many kids learn about safe gun handling and storage at a young age. This is particularly the case in locations where hunting is a way of life, or in cases where a parent must carry a firearm in their line of work.

However, kids must also remember guns should always be **considered an extremely potential danger**. They are not toys. **A loaded gun can kill**. Kids should never handle guns.

Gun safety - Protecting Yourself

Whether you are at home, at a friend's house, at school or on the street if you see a gun - **steer clear of it**.

If there is a gun in your home parents should follow these safety precautions:

- Guns should be unloaded and locked up.
- Bullets should be locked and stored in a separate location.
- Children should never have access to the keys.
- Police can offer advice on safe storage and gun/trigger locks.

If you see these rules not being followed it is ok to remind your parents about them. Your parents should talk to you about gun safety - but you don't know if friends who enter your home have had the same conversation.

If you see a gun in your friend's home you should:

- Steer clear of it - never touch it or play with it.
- Tell your parents what you saw immediately.
- Ask your parents permission to play at homes that may have guns. Your parents will want to know if the parents follow proper gun safety and storage.

If you see a gun at school, at a playground or outside your home you should:

- Steer clear of it - never touch it or play with it.
- Tell a teacher, an adult, a parent or a police officer what you saw immediately.

This safety message brought to you by the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth.